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Mr. Fredward's Duck

By Keiko Ushijima

Proofreader: Amelie
Cleaners: Shizame & Ying
Raw/ Translator/ QC: Fathskie

The Duck of Mr. Fredward 9

KEIKO USHIJIMA

LITTLE
CHRISTMAS
Vol. 9 Ch. 29

OAK
OAK
OAK
SSHH
OWW!
I HURT MY OWN FINGERS!
I hate this kind of work
IT'S GOOD OVER HERE TOO!
KEVIN!
THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS ARE READY!
THAT'S GREAT!

IF ONLY IT CAN BE LIKE THIS EVERY CHRISTMAS...
EVERY-THING FEELS GOOD, RIGHT?
KEVIN! THE CHRISTMAS TREE HAS ARRIVED!
THIS IS THE SECOND X-MAS SINCE I BROUGHT NICK TO MY HOUSE...
THIS YEAR IT SEEMS TO BE WARM
GLORIA! BE CAREFUL IT'LL BREAK!
KEVIN HOLD IT FIRM-LY!
I BROUGHT YOU TEA!
CAN YOU HOLD IT RIGHT?!
I'M ALREADY DOING IT!
I SAID I BROU-GHT YOU TEA!
EVERYONE! LET'S TAKE SOME PICTURES!

smile
click
SHE SAID IT'S GOING TO BE SHOWN TO RICHARD
YOU DON'T LIKE PHOTOGRAPHY DO YOU?
Still posing a fake smile
ESMERALDA, YOU MISCHIEVOUS WOMAN! WHY ARE YOU CARRYING A CAMERA AROUND THE HOUSE?
IT'S WEIRD YOU DO LOOK GOOD
the shutter can really change some people
LOOK OVER HERE!
NICK!
CAMERA?

click!
SHH! DON'T TAKE A PICTURE OF ME TAKING MY MEDICINE!
I'M SORRY! BUT IT LOOKS GOOD THAT WAY, IT SEEMS NATURAL!
WOW
COOL CAMERA!
IT'S FOR YOU
I
I DON'T NEED
SUCH AN EXPENSIVE CAMERA
I BOUGHT IT QUITE A WHILE AGO,
BUT IT HAS NEVER BEEN USED.
I WANT YOU TO HAVE IT
SO IT'S TRUE THAT GOOD STUFF ARE USELESS FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T USE THEM
ESMERALDA MUST HAVE TOLD YOU THAT.

GET WELL SOON...
BECAUSE I WANT TO CARE FOR HIM AS HIS FATHER WOULD
SOMEDAY WE'LL TAKE THAT CAMERA TO A PLACE
WHERE THERE'S NO BOOK OR TV
TO DO THINGS NICK WOULD HAVE WANTED TO DO TOGETHER
EVEN IF IT'S JUST PART OF IT.
I WANT TO DO MANY THINGS TOGETHER WITH YOU
TO A GLEAMING MEADOW AT DUSK...
AND TEARS VANISHING ON THE SEA OF DARKNESS

IT'S A GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENT, KEVIN
IT'S DIFFERENT! YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENT WILL BE DELIVERED BY SANTA LATER TONIGHT!
SO ARE YOU A SKINNY SANTA ??
pfft
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. GET WELL SOON OK? I'LL TAKE YOU ANYWHERE YOU WANT ONCE YOU'RE HEALTHY...
REALLY ??
ANYWHERE ??
EVEN IF I'M NOT TOO STRONG YET?
YES! WHEREVER YOU LIKE!
I PROMISE!

MY DAD WHAT KIND OF PERSON WAS HE?
YOU PROMISED, DIDN'T YOU? YOU SAID YOU'D TELL ME EVERYTHING
TELL ME WHAT HE'S LIKE, WHAT HIS JOB WAS

NICK!
KEVIN!
P
R
I
COPS!
RUN!!
M..GGY'S HIT!

MAGGY! HANG ON! DON'T DIE!!
MAGGY!!
JACKY BETRAYED US !!
KILL!!
I WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH.
WHO DID THIS!?
IT'S THE BOOGEY-MAN!
IT'S THEIR GUYS!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
ABOUT MY DAD.
WELL... IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE NOW.
KILL EVERYONE! KILL THE BOOGEYMAN! AND THAT JACKY TOO!
KILL THEM ALL!!
KILL!!

WHAT KIND OF PERSON WAS HE?
DAK
DOK
DAK

BLOODY
DANCE
click
beep

GOOD MOR-NING!
GOOD MOR-NING
ISN'T IT KEVIN'S TURN TO MAKE BREAKFAST?
I'M COVERING FOR HIM SINCE HE WAS UP ALL NIGHT WRITING.
THAT'S NICE!
CAN YOU TAKE MY TURN TOO?
YOU'RE TOO FREE!
BY THE WAY HAVE YOU BOUGHT A CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR ROSEMARY?
UHMM NO I HAVEN'T
WHAT SHOULD I GIVE HER?
SHALL WE GIVE HER A WOOL STOMACH WARMER?
Hahahaha! It suits her!

BATTERED
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU TWO?!
NO-THING
That's what you get for making fun of a sacred Christmas present!
WHAT IF WE HOLD A BIG CHRISTMAS PARTY THIS YEAR?
NO CAN DO.
WE NEED TO BE PRUDENT! THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS WILL BE ALL SOLEMN AND SERIOUS
OH..
WAIT..
HEY KE-VIN!
WHO IN THE WORLD, HAVE BEEN SPENDING CHRIST-MASES
BY FEASTING, DRINKING AND SLEEPING TO HIS HEART CONTENT?
COUGH COUGH
I HEARD WE'RE GOING TO MAKE A COSTUME PARTY THIS CHRIST-MAS??

WHAT COSTUME SHOULD I WEAR? A GHOST? A WERE-WOLF?
Ghost it is!
NICK, IT'S NOT HALLO-WEEN
happy
SINCE IT'S CHRISTMAS, PICK A CHRISTMAS-RELATED COSTUME
I DON'T KNOW ANY
WE'LL THINK OF SOMETHING YOU CAN USE.
NICK! ARE YOU ALLOWED TO LEAVE YOUR BED?
MY FEVER WENT DOWN ALRE-ADY.
YES! DOCTOR SAID IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO WALK A LITTLE IN THE MORNING.
HAVE YOU BOUGHT PRES-ENTS?
IT'S JUST A SIMPLE GIFT, BUT I MADE IT MYSELF
Can I help?
UMM WHAT SHOULD I MAKE? LAST YEAR I MADE A PAINTING
WANT TO TRY BAKING A CHRIST-MAS CAKE? I'LL HELP YOU!
YES PLEASE!
NICK, HERE'S THE STAR.
WE'RE GOING TO PLACE IT ON THE TOP OF THIS TREE

PUT IT UP THERE AND MAKE YOUR WISH
PLEASE FORGIVE ME
DEAR GOD

NICK, YOUR TEMPERATURE?
DID YOU JUST COME HOME, DOCTOR?
IT'S ON THAT TABLE.
HMM ...
IT WENT DOWN AND STAGE.
KEVIN SAID, IF MY CONDITION'S KEEP IMPROVING, HE'LL TAKE ME ANYWHERE I WANT TO GO.
WELL ISN'T THAT NICE!
AFRICA
SHALL WE CHECK ON YOUR CONDITION NOW?
It's almost Christmas!
WHY THE LONG FACE?
THERE'S SOMETHING ODD ABOUT NICK'S CONDITION.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WELCOME HOME, GLORIA!
JUST SUDDENLY SEEMED TO BE HEALTHIER.

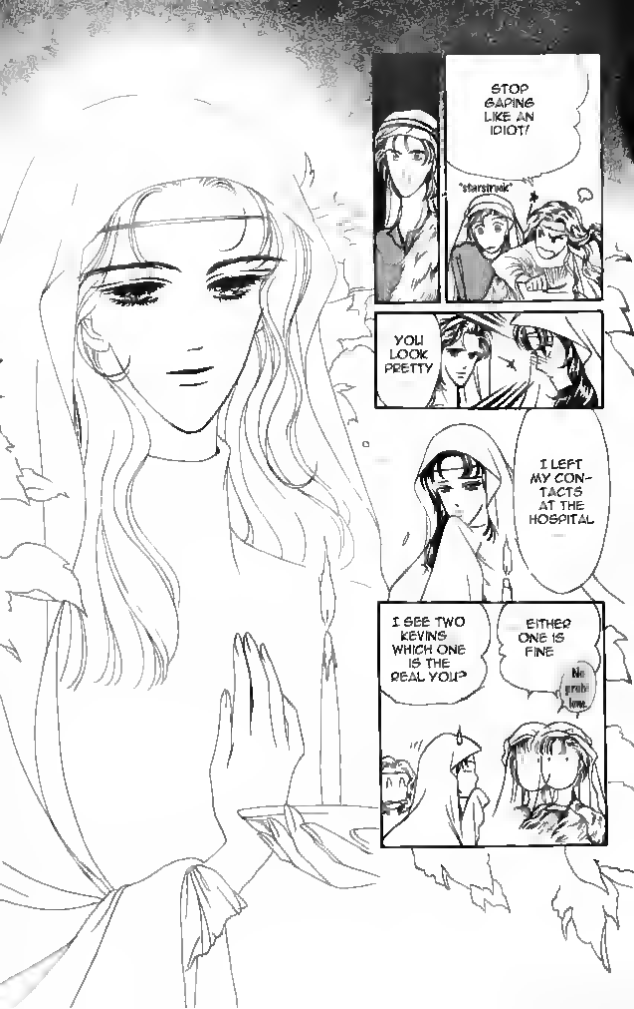
HIS FEVER FREQUENCY AND INTERVAL ARE GETTING FEWER.
HE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO WAKE UP, BUT—
ALMOST SUDDENLY HE GOT BETTER.
rustle
TWO THERMOMETERS. THE ONE THE DOCTOR SAW WAS THE 'NORMAL' ONE
WHEN I TOOK MY TEMPERATURE WITH THE OTHER THERMOMETER,
I'M STILL DEFINITELY UNWELL.
I'M SORRY I LIED...
tick tock
IT'S PROBABLY BETTER IF—
—WE TAKE HIM TO THE HOSPITAL AND EXAMINE HIM THERE

GALERO
PREPA-RATION FOR TONIGHT IS DONE!
OK!
ROSEMARY! CAN YOU TAKE MY PICTURE WHILE I'M DECO-RATING THE CAKE?
OK!
IT'S PRETTY GOOD FOR A BEGINNER
HOHOHO
TA DAA
ISN'T IT?? ISN'T IT?
GLORIAAA !! WHAT COSTUME ARE YOU WEARING TONIGHT??
BE QUIET! I'M BUSY!
here comes the nuisance
WHILE WAITING FOR CHRISTMAS, I'M RE-READING SOME PAPERS
NGGGG
I ALSO KEEPING TRACK OF SOME DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MEDICINE WORLD FROM THE INTERNET
SINCE YOU GUYS ALREADY HAVE ONE OF THE THREE WISEMEN, I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU LATER
GLO-RIA!
COME HERE I'LL LEND YOU MY CLOTHES!
RRRRRTTTT
HEYY!

IT'S SNOWING OUTSIDE!
THE SUN WILL SET VERY SOON
A CHOIR FROM THE VILLAGE'S KIDS...
YOU WANT TO GIVE THIS TO THEM?
ME...?
SLAP SLAP
.....
Merry Christ-mas!
...?
MERRY CHRISTMAS

STAR OF BETLEHEM
FOR WE HAVE SEEN HIS STAR IN THE EAST, AND COME TO WORSHIP HIM
ROSEMARY, AREN'T YOU ONE OF THE WISEMEN?
YES, I'M KING FROM THE EAST!
Cliff is down there!
GRANK
WHAT ABOUT ME??
CAN YOU GUESS WHO I AM?
ESMERALDA! YOU LOOK VERY BEAUTIFUL!
Like a musician from Bremen

WELL?
I DON'T KNOW
NOT A CLUE
I'M JOSEPH!! MARY'S HUSBAND!
arrr
I GET IT, I GET IT
TEKK
LOOK!
IT'S MOTHER MARY


STOP GAPING LIKE AN IDIOT!
starstruck
YOU LOOK PRETTY
I LEFT MY CONTACTS AT THE HOSPITAL
I SEE TWO KEVINS WHICH ONE IS THE REAL YOU?
EITHER ONE IS FINE
No grab love.

WHO ATONED FOR THE SINS OF MANKIND
HE IS THE SON OF GOD
PRAISE THE LORD
KIIIIT

PRAISE THE LORD.

IS IT OKAY?
FOR ME TO BE JESUS?
ESME-RALDA
IS IT REALLY OKAY IT'S NOT JOSHUA?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
I'M HANNIEL, THE ANGEL OF VENUS, THE LOVE AND JOY.
THIS CHILD IS THE EASTERN STAR, WHO LED THE PEOPLE TO BETLEHEM.
CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND VIRGIN BORN, THE SON OF GOD, THE ONE AND ONLY SAVIOR, THE LORD OF ALL.
MERRY CHRIST-MAS!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
NICK! COME OVER HERE!
HAHAHAHAHA
AFTER THAT, CHAOS ENSUES
GYAAHH
A DRUNK HANNIEL DANCED AROUND THROWING KISSES
A NEARSIGHTED MARY CRASHED INTO THE CHRISTMAS TREE
QUICK!
collapsed
MERRY CHRIST-MAS!
MY MESSY CAKE, GONE IN SECONDS

MMK
KE-VIN?

TEKK
YOU'RE AWAKE ALREADY?
ARE YOU WORKING KEVIN?
IS THE DEADLINE APPROACHING?
NO
IT'S NOT A WORK
THIS ISN'T TO BE PUBLISHED
THIS IS FOR NICK I'M WRITING A STORY ABOUT HIS FATHER
ALSO ABOUT ME, OUR FRIENDS AND OUR LIVES
"BLOODY DANCE"? I'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS BOOK...

THEN ARE YOU
I'M THE GRIM REAPER. GOES BY THE PEN NAME ELYOO NANOC
I SAW THE NEWS ON TV...
ELYOO NANOC!
A 17 YO BOY SHOT HIS FRIED SAID TO BE TRYING TO IMITATE ONE OF THE CHARACTERS IN A BOOK
I WONDER IF THAT'S REALLY THE CASE
PEOPLE SAID THAT IF SOMEONE WRITE A TRUE STORY ABOUT HIS LIFE, IT'LL BECOME A BEST SELLER
MY ORIGINAL WORK
CHOSEN AS THE BEST MYSTERY NOVEL OF A FIRST-TIME AUTHOR,
WON AN AWARD FOR BEST-SELLING NOVEL THAT YEAR.

REBELLION, INFLUENCE, BETRAYAL.
INSIDE THE LIFE OF A STREET GANG...
AND THE DEATH OF A COMRADE,
MAGGY!
THE KIND-HEARTED MAGGY
WHO'S ALMOST LIKE A MOTHER TO US
I WROTE THINGS AS THEY WERE PRINTED IN MY BRAIN AS A KID.
THE VIOLENCE, THE DIS-APPOINT-MENT,
THEY FELT REAL TO ME AT THAT TIME BUT—
IF I THINK ABOUT IT NOW, IT'S TRUE, SOME OF THEM WERE REAL,
BUT SOME OF THEM WEREN'T.

BUT NOW... AFTER I MET ROSEMARY, NICK AND YOU,
I THOUGHT I COULD WRITE ABOUT OTHER THINGS
NOT AS INDIVIDUALS WHO KEEP
THEIR ROLES IN A DRAMA, BUT
FRIENDS WHO SHARED DREAMS, LAUGHED AND CRIED TOGETHER
OF WHAT THEY'VE SEEN, HEARD AND THOUGHT ABOUT
WE WEREN'T ANY DIFFERENT FROM A NORMAL KID!

I WANT TO ADOPT NICK.

BEGGG!
I KNOW THAT AN UNMARRIED PERSON CANNOT ADOPT A CHILD, UNLESS THEY'RE RELATED
GLORIA ....
BUT...
IF YOU WANT TO...

HUH?
IS IT MY BED?
WHEN DID I GET
CHRISTMAS PRESENT?
A COM-PU-TER!
UGHHH
KEVIN! WHY ARE YOU GIVING ME SUCH AN EX-PENSIVE
GIFT...? YOU WOULDN'T HAVE SPOILED YOUR OWN KID, WOULD YOU? THAT WON'T BE GOOD, ISN'T IT?
UHHH...

HAAAA... HAAA
UHHHH
WEIRD... WHY AM I SWEATING THIS MUCH?
DEAR GOD...
DEAR GOD...
NO!
GOD!
NO...
GLO-RIA!

I'M JUST A NORMAL HUMAN BEING!
I'M NOT A SAINT!
GOD PLEASE GRANT ME TIME.

CREAK
WHAT'S WRONG, NICK? CAN'T SLEEP?
KE-VIN
YOU'VE PROMISED, THAT WHEN I GET BETTER,
YOU'LL TAKE ME ANYWHERE I WANT TO GO
I'M HEALTHY NOW
SO CAN YOU TAKE ME TO MY FATHER?
To be continued to Vol. 9 Ch. 30